



Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 283 - Mental Health - Workforce Development - Fund Established

Hearing Date: February 8, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers supports *Senate Bill 283 – Mental Health – Workforce Development – Fund Established*. The bill creates a workgroup to make recommendations regarding building and retaining the behavioral health professional workforce. The recommendations could be implemented if state funding is allocated to the program.

We are supporting this bill because of the drastic shortage of behavioral health professionals. We would like to note that schools are struggling to meet the behavioral health needs of their students through several different types of programs – school health, school-based health centers, and community-based partnerships. We believe it would be helpful for the workgroup to include a focus area of behavioral health provided in schools.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.